

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT ITS HEIGHT.

Interviews With Business Men Elicit the Information That Business This Year

BREAKS PREVIOUS RECORDS.

Never Before Have the Retail Stores Showed a More Varied Line of Merchandise.

There is no better barometer of the industrial conditions prevailing in the country than the retail trade. That the present conditions are as good if not better than at any time since 1892 can readily be seen from reading the following interviews which an Intelligencer man had with some of our largest merchandise establishments. Their remarks were all in the same strain, the opinion being unanimous that this year would surpass all previous records for holiday business.

The streets this week have been crowded with holiday shoppers. The retail stores have had all they could do in handling the crowds of holiday shoppers and when approached by a reporter last evening, many members of firms were too busy to talk. The stores never looked more attractive in their holiday garb and never were there so many new and novel articles placed on display for the selection of the buyer. Last night the shopping district was more animated than at any time this month and each night the crowds grow larger, a fact which augurs well for a big holiday business.

Scenes of Activity.
When approached by a reporter last evening it was necessary to single out a business man in the midst of a crowd. An idle clerk in any of the retail stores of this city during the present holiday season would, indeed, be a novelty. Many of the men approached stated that they had not compared this year with the records of other years, but they had not the least doubt that this would be the banner year of the history of their business.

Mr. Sonneborn, of the Hub, said their business this year was greatly in excess of the business done last year in the same period. Last Saturday the business done was better than on the same day last year and that meant better than any year in the history of the business. "Business is getting better each day and the people are buying a better class of goods than ever before. It will be a record-breaking year and considering the weather, which has been bad for the clothing, shoe and dry goods business, business has been elegant. I attribute the excellence of last Saturday's business to the smallpox scare, as the buyers of surrounding towns desired to do their shopping before any such contingency as a quarantine could be declared."

A Remarkable Year.
Mr. Milligan, of the F. W. Baumer Company—"Our trade so far has been most satisfactory. I have not had time to look up the past records of the firm, but we confidently expect to do a bigger volume of business this year than ever before."

George E. Johns, of the George R. Taylor Company—"Business has been most satisfactory and it never was better. Conditions seem more favorable than ever before. In the better class of goods our business this year has never been equalled. We expect this to be a record-breaking year."

George E. Stifel—"This has been a remarkable year in our business. Our increase, alone, this year is more than most business houses do. I can see no reason why business should not be better this year than ever before. Last year was the banner one in the history of our business and this year is way above last. We expect this year's business to surpass all other years by a good margin."

Better Than Last Year.
Homer Koen, of the Palace Furniture Company—"Business has been picking up since Saturday and has been better this week. The three days of this week business has been better than for the same period last year. Previous to this business has not been so good, but we expect a 'good finish.' We expect to equal last year's business at least and that means the best holiday trade in our history. A noticeable feature this year is that we are selling a better class of goods, very little cheap articles being purchased in the way of novelties and small wares."

George M. Snook—"Business is way

Hard Coughs

No matter how hard your cough is or how long you have had it, you want to get rid of it, of course. It is too risky to wait until you have consumption, for sometimes it's impossible to cure this disease, even with

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

If you are coughing today, don't wait until tomorrow, but get a bottle of our Cherry Pectoral at once and be relieved.

Three sizes: 25c, 50c, \$1.00.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express a bottle to you all charges prepaid. Be sure you give us your parent express office. Address, J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass.

ahead of last year. We have more business than we can attend to. There is no scarcity of money and the better class of goods have the call. In the first ten days of December our business ran 15 per cent above last year. Last week was the biggest week of our history for the same period. We expect that Saturday and Monday will be big days, as the factories will give their employees a three weeks' pay on Saturday. Business is great and this, too, in spite of the smallpox scare."

Never So Busy.
W. E. Stone, of Stone & Thomas—"We have never been so busy in our history. I have been too busy to compare the records of this year with others, but this year's business will surpass all previous years. Last year was our banner year, but each department this season shows an immense increase over last year. The people have more money to spend and they are spending it freely and with a lavish hand."

J. G. Dillon, of the Dillon-Hancher Company—"Trade this year is different from what it has been at any time during the past fifteen years. It has been sluggish up to last Saturday, but has taken a jump this week. It seems that business is not so good as last year, but when we come to adding up the day's receipts we find that each day is greatly in excess of the corresponding day last year. This is owing to the fact that the people have money and they are purchasing a higher class of goods. Our receipts for the month of November were 25 per cent larger than for the same month last year. December business will be greatly ahead of last year. Last year the rush began the first of the month, but the real holiday shopping this year did not begin until last Saturday. The business is more satisfactory than ever before. There is no rush, but we are selling a better class of goods."

TO BUILD IN WHEELING.

It is said that the National Tin Plate Company will erect mills in the Wheeling District—Company Being Financed.

It is stated from Pittsburgh that the new National Tin Plate Company, in which Wheeling and Pittsburgh people are interested, will locate its mills in the Wheeling district. The stock books have been opened at Pittsburgh, and it is said that nearly the entire issue of \$5,000,000 stock will be subscribed in the Smoky City.

The National company will control the W. H. Rodgers process by which the manufacture of tin plate is claimed to be greatly cheapened. Mr. Rodgers is at present connected with the Whitaker mill in this city, where a quantity of plate made by his process has been produced within the past year.

Nothing could be learned as to location of the site the company will acquire in the Wheeling district for its mills.

NEW COAL COMPANY

Stockholders Meet in Wheeling Tuesday Night and Elect Directors and Officers—To Develop 1,000 Acres in Harrison County.

Last night, at the office of Howard & Handlan, the stockholders of the Byron Coal & Coke Company met and elected directors and officers, as follows:

Directors—J. J. Jones, John A. Howard, James K. Hall, J. B. Handlan and S. M. Noyes, all of Wheeling.
President—James K. Hall.
Secretary—S. M. Noyes.
The company has holdings of 1,000 acres of coal land in Harrison county, on the line of the West Virginia & Pittsburgh road, between Clarkburg and Weston, the vein varying in thickness from seven to nine feet of coal suitable for both steam fuel and coking. Plans for the development of the property will be taken up later. The company has a capital stock of \$150,000.

Benwood Accident.

About 6:30 o'clock last evening the delivery wagon of Waterhouse Brothers was struck by a street car on Main street, in Benwood, and the driver was thrown to the ground. Some of the merchandise was knocked from the wagon into the street, but the wagon was not damaged. The front of the car was stove in and it was taken to the shops for repairs. The colored driver of the wagon was taken to the Glendale hospital, where the extent of his injuries has not yet been determined. It is thought he was hurt internally.

Christmas Shirts for Men or Boys, Extra Cuffs, 48c, at McFADDEN'S.

WHATSOEVER you're looking for in the jewelry line call on H. E. HILLMAN & CO. They have it.

A TWENTY ROUND DRAW

Fought by Jack McClelland and Billy Ryan Last Night.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Dec. 18.—Billy Ryan, of Syracuse, and Jack McClelland, of Pittsburgh, fought a twenty round draw before the Mahoning Athletic club, here, to-night. The contest was a fast and scientific one and the decision was generally satisfactory.

A Challenge.

John D. Lutz, of Steubenville, O., on behalf of his protégé, Harry Lemon, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., challenges any boxer of Wheeling or vicinity for a limited round contest at 133 or 135 pounds before the club offering the best inducements. Suitable side bet can be arranged. Answer through this paper.

Trade of Philippines.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—A statement prepared by the division of insular affairs, war department, summarizing the trade of the Philippines for the ten months ended April 30 last, shows that the imports of merchandise during this period amounted in value to \$16,450,255. Gold and silver to the value of \$1,714,561 also were imported, making the total importation \$18,164,816. Of this amount \$1,183,486 represented the goods brought in from the United States.

Moorish Claim Settled.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—A message from United States Consul Gunther at Tangier, informs the state department that the Moorish government had settled the claim of the United States for \$5,000 indemnity on account of the murder of Marcus Esquivel, a naturalized American citizen in Morocco last spring.

Fashionable Young Men

can find pleasure in one of our

FALL AND WINTER SUITS AND OVERCOATS.

All wool fabrics, popular weaves, finely tailored, Italian and silk linings.
Suits\$5.00 to \$25.00.
Overcoats\$7.50 to \$30.00.

D. GUNDLING & CO.,

1215 Market Street.
Strictly One Price Clothiers and Furnishers.

..POLITICS..

The Republican primary election of next Saturday is arousing the greatest interest throughout the city. All of the candidates are hard at work, and the most vigorous campaign known in recent years for city election nominations is on. It is expected that 5,000 votes will be cast, two and one-half times as many as the Democrats cast last Saturday. The city committee has ordered 25,000 ballots, and it is feared that this number will be insufficient, as ballots will be given out to all the candidates for use by their workers.

The assertion by the Wheeling correspondent of a Pittsburgh paper that James K. Hall would be appointed collector of internal revenue for the "first district" of West Virginia, is about on a par with the News editorial recently that Mr. Hall might, through the division of West Virginia into two Federal judicial districts, be appointed clerk or marshal. In the one instance there is but one internal revenue district in West Virginia, and it is not even contemplated to have two, while in the other the prospective marshal and the judge of the United States district court hall from counties that would be in the first judicial district, and consequently there would be no vacancies.

Owing to stories placed in circulation reflecting upon the record of James P. Maxwell, one of the Republican aspirants for the mayoralty nomination, the publication of the following card from the committee of the union otologic workers that waited on Mr. Maxwell's firm in regard to the matter in question, is a simple act of justice to that gentleman:

WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 18, 1900.
To Whom It May Concern—About five years since, we, a committee appointed by the Local Union of Stogie Makers called upon Messrs. Hubbard & Paul, of this city, to select them not to handle the product of H. Seamon & Son, a non-union factory. We were met in the office by Mr. Maxwell, of this firm. We asked him whether or not they handled Seamon's stogies, and were informed that they did not, but that they claimed the privilege of going out and buying the goods when they had orders for them. We then asked that they would not take the goods in stock, and were informed that they would not do so. Any other report circulated as coming from this committee contrary to the above is not true, and we testify to that fact.
FRED SCHNEPP,
F. M. THOMAS.

Endorses W. C. Brown.

To the Editor of the Intelligencer.
SIR—I have noticed several letters in your paper endorsing the candidacy of Roy Naylor for the second branch of council from the Seventh ward, and I second everything that has been printed. But we must not overlook the fact that there are to be three candidates chosen, and the "upper end" has a candidate in the person of W. C. Brown, who, I believe, is a "winner." He is a man of spotless reputation, more than ordinarily intelligent, has the best interests of the city at heart, and will make a capable, honest and reliable representative. I do not desire this to be construed against Mr. Naylor, for he has my support and will have my vote at the primary election. I simply wish to bring Mr. Brown more prominently before the island voters and think it will be shown on next Saturday that he is the choice of the voters for councilman from the "upper end."

Yours truly,
ISLAND VOTER.
Wheeling, Dec. 18, 1900.

Sixth Ward Endorsement.

To the Editor of the Intelligencer.
SIR—If the Republicans hope to carry the Sixth ward in the coming election they will have to nominate good men. The Sixth is normally Democratic and it takes candidates who can reduce the Democratic vote to swing the ward into the Republican column. Consequently the Sixth ward Republicans should be careful in the selection of their ticket next Saturday. Among those suggested for second branch nominations I notice the name of Ambrose F. Hagig and I want to endorse his candidacy strongly. I believe he can be elected and his nomination would help the whole ticket. He has lived all his life in the ward and is very popular with all of our citizens. He is a young man, honest, intelligent and industrious and a good party worker.
SIXTH WARD.
Wheeling, Dec. 18.

Victory Over Insurgents.

MANILA, Dec. 18.—Lieutenant Herbert L. Evans, of the Fourteenth volunteer infantry regiment, with fifty men, attacked December 12, several hundred

NEXT TO MURDER

A doctor, who keeps his patient at home, when he ought to send him away—for money—ought to be held responsible.

So ought we, if we mislead. Our offense is greater than his, because we endanger thousands of lives by one advertisement—millions read it. Some few must go for a change of climate, or die; but, to thousands, Scott's emulsion of cod-liver oil is cure at home.

We'll send you a little to try if you like.

SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl street, New York.

D. GUNDLING & CO.

bolomen and fifty insurgents armed with rifles occupying an entrenched position at Tonoxigan, island of Cuba. The Americans had three men wounded and the enemy lost twelve men killed and many wounded.

SHARPLY CRITICISED

Is a Circular Issued by a McMechen Business Establishment Which Does a Great Injustice to Wheeling and Bellaire.

The cowardly, despicable act of a McMechen business house in issuing a circular which was thrown broadcast in Benwood, McMechen and adjacent territory, wilfully misrepresenting the situation at Wheeling and Bellaire as to smallpox, will meet with the general condemnation it deserves. Although there is not a case of smallpox in Wheeling, and there has been none at all in Bellaire, this too enterprising firm deliberately issues a circular, from which the following is extracted:

"Smallpox! In the business districts of Bellaire and Wheeling—170 cases reported in Wheeling alone, and they say that the board of health were considering the advisability of quarantining those towns on account of the virulence of the cases and extreme danger of the spread of the disease. This is worse because it comes at a time when shopkeepers are thinking of visiting the infected districts. The people are taking advantage of the store, etc."

Nothing quite so disreputable as this has occurred in the commercial annals of this neighborhood, and the Intelligencer regrets that any merchant is so absorbed in the chase for the dollar as to become insensible to honor and truth.

Boys' \$1.25 Wool Sweaters, any color, for 98c, at McFADDEN'S.

RIVER NEWS.

YESTERDAY'S DEPARTURES.

Parkersburg—BEN HUR, noon.
Newport—JEWELL, 11 a. m.
Pittsburgh—HUDSON, 8 p. m.
Cincinnati—KEYSTONE STATE, 8 p. m.
Slatersville—RUTH, 3:30 p. m.
Clarington—LEROY, 4:30 p. m.
Steubenville—T. M. BAYNE, 2:30 p. m.

TO-DAY'S BOATS.

Charleston—KANAWHA, 6:30 a. m.
Parkersburg—CITY OF WHEELING, noon.
Pittsburgh—LORENA, midnight.
Pittsburgh—BEN HUR, 2 p. m.
Slatersville—RUTH, 3:30 p. m.
Clarington—LEROY, 4:30 p. m.
Steubenville—T. M. BAYNE, 2:30 p. m.

TO-MORROW'S BOATS.

Pittsburgh—GREENWOOD, 6:30 a. m.
Cincinnati—HUDSON, 8 a. m.
Parkersburg—BEN HUR, 11 a. m.
Newport—JEWELL, 11 a. m.
Clarington—LEROY, 3:30 p. m.
Slatersville—RUTH, 3:30 p. m.
Steubenville—T. M. BAYNE, 2:30 p. m.

Along the Landing.

The Hudson is to-morrow's packet for Cincinnati.
The H. K. Bedford was not up yesterday, on account of the ice.
The Tornado passed up with empties Tuesday, at 10 a. m.
The marks at 6 p. m. Tuesday showed 6 feet 3 inches and falling.
The Hudson and Keystone State were each delayed twelve hours yesterday, by ice and fog.

More River Improvements.

The congressional rivers and harbor committee has made provision for four new locks and dams on the Ohio river, to cost in the aggregate \$3,600,000. These new structures, with the six others under contract, will represent an expenditure of \$5,000,000. The committee recommended that Dam No. 8, below East Liverpool; No. 11, below Wellsville, W. Va.; No. 14, below Slatersville, and No. 35, below Cullom's rifle, Cincinnati, be built. For each of the three first named dams the sum of \$50,000 in cash was appropriated, with which to purchase lands for sites, and \$100,000 was allowed for a site for the dam at Cullom's. The expenditure for the upper locks is to be \$350,000 each, and for the one at Cincinnati, \$500,000. The work is to be done under the continuous contract system, but it cannot be started until 1904. The action of the committee in incorporating these important projects in the pending bill was largely brought about through the efforts of Representatives Dovenor and Gill, backed up by the Ohio Valley Improvement Association, which is waging a vigorous campaign for river improvement.

River Telegrams.

OIL CITY—River 2 feet 2 inches and falling. Weather, cloudy and mild.
WARREN—River 2 feet and stationary.
GREENSBORO—River 7 feet and stationary. Weather, warmer and threatening.
MORGANTOWN—River 7 feet 5 inches and stationary. Weather, cloudy and warm.
BROWNSVILLE—River 4 feet 10 inches and stationary.
PITTSBURGH—River 4 1/2 feet and stationary. Weather, cloudy and cool.
STEUBENVILLE—River 4 feet 3 inches and falling. Cloudy and cold.
Up—Tornado, 2 p. m. Down—Keystone State, 5 p. m.
PARKERSBURG—Ohio river 6 feet and stationary. Weather, cloudy and cold. Up—City of Wheeling, Down—Valley Belle. Due down—Ben Hur. Little Kanawha falling. Locals on time.

TOY.

The Toy Talking Machine.
A child can operate it, nothing to get out of order, will last for years. The records, in endless varieties, don't break or wear out; the baby can play with them without fear of injury. Price \$5. F. W. BAUMER CO.

MANDOLINS, Banjos and Guitars will be sold this week regardless of cost.

F. W. BAUMER CO.

AN ARTISTIC TRIUMPH

Achieved by Victor Herbert, Henry Merck and the Pittsburgh Orchestra in Their Wheeling Concert Tuesday Night.

The Pittsburgh orchestra was received in the Opera House last evening, by a brilliant and enthusiastic audience, and Victor Herbert, Henry Merck, cellist, Anton Horner and the aggregation of artists, playing the violins, violas, cellos, harp, flutes, clarinets, oboes, horns, bassoons and trombones, each received an ovation as the different sections, wood, brass and string, became prominent in one or other selection. As a whole the orchestra was never heard with more pleasure than under the direction of Victor Herbert last evening. The programme was interesting, showing the versatility of the organization. The intelligence, precision and enthusiasm of the renditions were the subject of highest praise and the applause given each number and the encore demanded evidence the thorough enjoyment of each bearing. Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Tchaikowsky, Debussy and Herbert were the composers read and there is no need to particularize any rendition, as each contained special beauties, and every individual in the appreciative audience had his or her preference. Repetitions were asked of the Mendelssohn, Wagner, Tchaikowsky and Herbert numbers.

Mr. Henry Merck, the soloist of the evening, had come highly heralded as a cellist, and there was no disappointment. He received at the close of his first selection, "Moreau de Concert" (Servalis), a flattering ovation, and was compelled to respond with another selection, while his second numbers, "Andacht" and "At the Fountain," were received with the same enthusiasm, compelling another number before quiet could be restored. His performance was magnificent and proved a real treat.

To Mr. Herbert the music world extends congratulations upon the ensemble he has brought together, forming one of the three permanent orchestras of the United States. His magnetism and his musicianship have told to his credit upon the seventy men making up the Pittsburgh Symphony orchestra, which, after last evening's splendid achievement will be welcomed in Wheeling again with delight.

Presidential Nominations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The President to-day sent the following nominations to the senate: John G. A. Leishman, of Pennsylvania, now minister to Switzerland, to be minister to Turkey; Arthur S. Hardy, of New Hampshire, now minister to Greece, Roumania and Servia, to be minister to Switzerland; Charles S. Francis, of New York, to be minister to Greece, Roumania and Servia; Clarence L. Thurston, of Nebraska, to be secretary of the legation at Buenos Ayres; Benjamin S. Warren, of Alabama, to be assistant surgeon in the marine hospital service; J. M. Patterson to be postmaster at The Dalles, Oregon.

Dividend of Steel Company.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The directors of the Federal Steel Company met to-day and declared the regular quarterly dividend of 1 1/4 per cent on the preferred stock. No action was taken as to dividends on the common stock and none will be taken, it is officially announced, until January 15.

McFADDEN'S.

Pretty Christmas Neckties.

Christmas Silk Bow Ties.....25c
Christmas Cat Wing Bows.....25c
Christmas Boys' Silk Neckties.....25c
Christmas Puff Neck Ties.....50c
Christmas Four-in-Hand Ties.....50c

McFADDEN'S, SHIRTS, HATS, SHOES,
1318, 1320, 1322 Market Street, Wheeling.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

If any better selection of HOLIDAY LITERATURE is on sale in any BOOK STORE outside the largest cities, it must be nearly complete in its assortment.

All the best LATE WORKS OF FICTION. FINELY ILLUSTRATED STANDARD NOVELS AND POEMS. ARTISTIC BOOKS OF DRAWINGS in black and white and in colors. Sets of STANDARD NOVELISTS in cloth and leather bindings. ATTRACTIVE SERIES OF POPULAR BOOKS in neat bindings and good type and paper at POPULAR PRICES, from 25c upwards. All the BEST LITERATURE for CHILDREN of all ages. Some in artistic color printing.

When you see any book advertised in your favorite MAGAZINE, come and see if we have it.

STANTON'S OLD CITY BOOK STORE.

1/4 off On Our Umbrellas, Mufflers, and Men's Shirts.....

25 CENTS ON EVERY DOLLAR Too Many--Must Be Sold by Saturday Night.

\$2.00 Mufflers, 1/4 off, go at \$1.50.
\$1.50 Mufflers, 1/4 off, go at \$1.12 1/2.
\$1.00 Mufflers, 1/4 off, go at 75c.
50c Mufflers, 1/4 off, go at 37 1/2c.

SHIRTS.

\$2.00 Shirts, 1/4 off, go at \$1.50.
\$1.50 Shirts, 1/4 off, go at \$1.12 1/2.
\$1.00 Shirts, 1/4 off, go at 75c.
50c Shirts, 1/4 off, go at 37 1/2c.

\$4.00 Umbrellas, 1/4 off, go at \$3.00.
\$3.00 Umbrellas, 1/4 off, go at \$2.25.
\$2.00 Umbrellas, 1/4 off, go at \$1.50.

WILL GUTMAN,
THE FURNISHER. 1311 MARKET ST.

20 PER CENT DISCOUNT....

Beginning Monday, December 17, We Will Offer All

POTTERY, FANCY BRIC-A-BRAC, BRONZES, MARBLES, PORCELAIN PAINTINGS and all HAVILAND CHINA

at a discount of 20 per cent from regular prices. We have just received three invoices of FINE CHINA from Haviland & Co., and J. Pouyat, of Limoges, France, that ought to have been received on September 1, which we will offer at this sale.

Above goods are all new. Not an old pattern in the lot. Nothing but the best things produced by the best makers in the world.

Dillon, Hancher & Co.